The Blurb

Newsletter of The Phil−Mont Mobile Radio Club

Public Service Since 1949

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The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL−MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. ***Copying and quoting*** is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. ***Subscriptions*** are available to non−members for $10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

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Public Service: W3CH & W3WF
Refreshments: W3AOK
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Skywarn: WX3PHI
Sunshine: WU3I
Youth: N3MT
TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: ND3Q
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
Welcome: K3CJ.

Directors:

WU3I (02), W3RM (02), W3BBB(03), N3MT (03), N3XKE (02), W3AOK(03), W3WF (A)

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the second non−holiday Wednesday of every month except July and August at The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street.

All visitors are welcome!

License Examinations

are held on the first non−holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum. Registration finishes at 6 p.m. Doors close at 6:30 PM−SHARP!

Club Stations

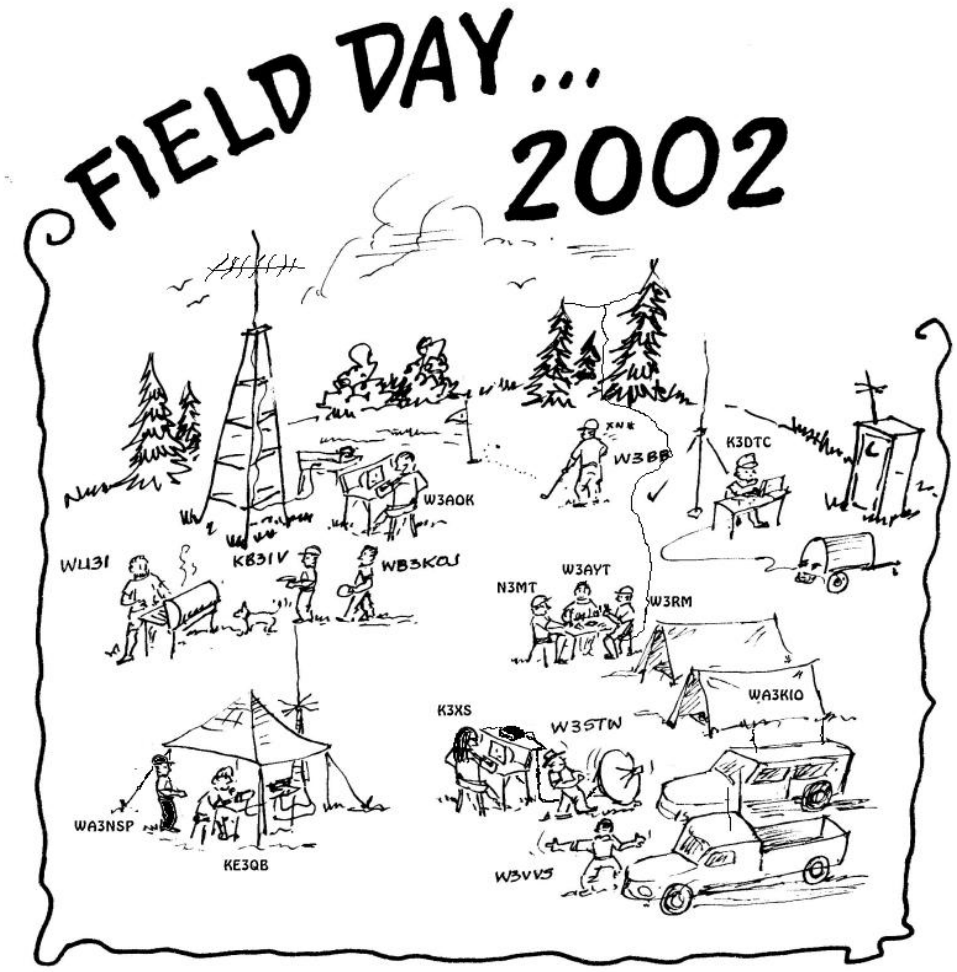
W3AA − The club sponsors this **world−class demonstration station** at The Franklin Institute Science Museum. and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate.
Trustee: **WU3I**
Manager: **W3STW**
email: w3aa@phil mont.org
packet BBS: 144.99 MHz
w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

W3EM − **Field Day and special events** station − ***Trustee*** **W3VVS**

W3QV − **Club Repeater**
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA
Trustee: **W3BBB**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz
444.80 MHz rx PL 186.2 Hz
Club Simplex: 147.51 MHz

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter Net** at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10−on−10 Net** at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB



Well! Another wild weekend in the Fort Washington State Park has come and gone and here's the tale.

ON the Good side it did not rain.....

OK, now with what happened. We started out fine on Friday with assembly and setup, but on Saturday, Murphy showed up with some distant cousins and caused havoc.

The first problem was the new, and I mean ***new*** fresh out of the box, generators from the great folks at J. Ray Patterson.

They were equipped with GFIC outlets and they were troublesome for our operations. The main victim was W3RM and N3MT on 40M.

Now if you look at the Stats enclosed, you will see they usually get a high number of contacts. Well, not only did they have GFIC problems, but the logging software kept losing their contacts. Alas, their totals suffered and are well under their average. Then, after dinner, we put on the coffee pot and the other generator popped its GFIC and we found the problem to be a drop lite in the 75M tent.

[*This was a lot of fun over in the sat station, where we had a Linux−based computer. It had to reboot every time the power dropped, and we had a stack of NTS traffic waiting to go out to N3ACL−8. −ed]*

I have talked to Lenny W3LEN to try to save some of the old Homelite Generators for us next year without the GFIC units. The 40 M GFIC problem was fixed by getting Dominic K3DTC's generator from his home in Willow Grove (no GFIC).

Notable mentions to the gang on 15M for the big jump in contacts over past years and the ops on 10 M for their big increase.

Everyone had a good time, no one got rained on and the Park has installed a New Bathroom with real running Water and devices that actually flush. The only down side is it is a half mile away at the bottom of the drive. Still have old Stinky on the top of the hill.

We had fun overall, and learned that no matter how hard you try and how well you plan, Murphy will outsmart you some of the time.

Of Course we will be back next year and ***we really need some more operators.*** That would increase the score in a big way.

−de Steve WU3I

Satelllites at Field Day

PMRC Field Day results, past and present

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
160phone					5	
80 phone	342	217		456	186	262
80 cw	77	47		67	200	
40 phone	46	35		190	272	
40 cw	308	491		538	443	119
20 phone	9	322		157	447	178
20 cw	153	100		19	186	
15 phone	80	299		166	150	420
15 cw	2			6	25	72
10 phone	86	197		145	68	260
6 phone		125		95	95	99
2 phone	88	22		24		3
Digital		46		69	118	125
Bonus points	8 of 11	8 of 9		8 of 11	10 of 13	18 of 18
Total Points	4162	6224		6462	7334	6244
Class				5A	7A	6A
Chair	N3CB	WU3I	WU3I	WU3I	WU3I	WU3I

The Phil−Mont Mobile Radio Club was running our traditional Field Day station W3EM, from the heavily wooded top of Militia Hill in Ft. Washington State Park just north of Philadelphia.

While this is an excellent location for HF work, the heavy leaf canopy "leaves" something to be desired for satellite work. Nonetheless, this year (my second as satellite band captain) we were blessed with good equipment, including beautiful VHF and UHF CP yagis provided by our hard−working field day chairman, Steve WU3I. Steve recently purchased them used at the BRATS Timonium hamfest, and soon they'll be mounted on the roof of his home, and we'll be seeing Steve active on the birds.

For our first pass, FO−20 on orbit 57965 at 2120 UTC, we stationed Gwen NG3P outside the satellite station tent wearing headphones on a long cable, so she could hear the effects of her armstrong rotoring on downlink signal over the noise of the generators. I crewed the tracking computer and radio inside the tent, and Gwen kept one earcup lifted to hear my shouts of AZ/EL tracking data ("141, up 28!").

It wasn't too long before FO−20 lifted above the treeline and we got a ***strong*** signal from VE1FO; when he finished his QSO, I swooped my signal down into his and got a response to my first call as soon as I was properly on his frequency...his exchange was recived at 2A Maritime (which we initially took to mean maritime mobile and were duly impressed, until someone pointed out that VE1 was in the Maritime Provinces).

With the QSO complete, the entire camp knew we'd hit ARRL 100 point paydirt by Gwen's warwhoop cry of success.

First pass, first call, contact made. Not too shabby, and some compensation for hours of rain−soaked frustration last year.

Later, on Sunday, Steve K3PHL came by the satellite tent with a tale to tell. He'd been operating our 15−meter station and heard a station frantically calling a 1x1 special−event call...drifting quite a bit in frequency. So Steve gave him a call, logged the exchange, and only at the end of the QSO did the other station thank him profusely for being their first Field Day satellite contact....apparently he'd heard their 15m downlink, and they heard him come back directly on 15m and thought he was working through the bird too. So should the other station get 50 ARRL FD points for half a satellite QSO?

Again this year, the satellite station was able to provide an APRS demonstration and service 2m packet message traffic when not in use for satellite work. The 400 bonus points we were able to contribute made the effort of lugging the gear and setting up the station worthwhile.

73 de Maggie K3XS

Well, if you have been living under a rock or trapped in a deep cave this is news to you but ...

W3AA is *MOVING!!!!*

Our new home will be at **Northeast High School, Cottman and Algon Avenues in Northeast Philadelphia.**

We will be joining the Station of W3YC at the school. W3YC is one of the oldest if not the first High School Station Licensed in the Country. The Museum Station will be closing in September and we will be starting to move things at that time.

In a related event, at the most recent Volunteer Luncheon one of our operators asked the President Dennis Wint of the Museum in a public Q & A , "What plans does the Museum have for the future of the Ham Radio Exhibit?" The answer was "NONE". Kind of tells us where we stand after 50 Years as an exhibit. It's a good thing that Baldwin Locomotive weighs as much as it does or it might be out the door too.

See You at the Meeting in September where we will all be getting our information packets for the MS150. What, you haven't signed up yet? Shame on you! The forms are on the website and we still need the help.

Steve WU3I

AMSAT−OSCAR 7 returns to life

(from ARRL ARLS006)

The AMSAT−OSCAR 7 satellite suddenly has come back to life after being dormant for more than 20 years. First heard June 21 by Pat Gowan, G3IOR, AO−7 subsequently has been monitored and used by several other amateurs. AO−7 was launched November 15, 1974. It remained operational for more than six years before succumbing to battery failure in 1981.

''I'm blown away,'' was the reaction of AO−7 Project Manager Jan King,W3GEY. ''So, this old war horse of a spacecraft seems to have comeback from the dead if only for a few moments.''

Exclaimed satellite enthusiast and AMSAT Vice President for UserServices Bruce Paige, KK5DO, ''This is really awesome.'' Paige said the latest turn of events makes AO−7 is the oldest amateur satellite that's still working. AMSAT−NA has now listed AO−7 as''semi−operational.''

AMSAT says it seems certain the satellite is running only off its solar panels, not from the onboard batteries, so it will be operational only while it's in sunlight. King speculates that the batteries, which shorted as they failed two decades ago, now are''un−shorting'' and causing the satellite to come back to life.

For those attempting to use AO−7, Mode A (2 meters up/10 meters down) is not a problem, but Mode B (70 cm up/2 meters down) is. Because of changes in the international Radio Regulations that went into effect in the 1970s as AO−7 was under construction, the 432.1MHz uplink frequency is no longer authorized for space communications.

AMSAT advises potential users that when uplinking to a satellite,they are operating in the Amateur−Satellite Service. AMSAT says uplinking to AO−7 ''is possibly illegal since the Amateur Satellite Service is not permitted at 432.1 MHz.'' The current band plan earmarks the 432.1 MHz range for weak signal work. Section 97.207(c) of the FCC's rules authorizes space station operation only in the 435−438 MHz segment.

Built by a multinational team under the direction of AMSAT−NA, AO−7 carries Mode A (145.850−950 MHz uplink; 29.400−500 MHz downlink) and Mode B (432.180−120 MHz uplink; 145.920−980 MHz downlink) linear transponders plus beacons on 29.500 and 145.700 MHz. A 2304.1 MHz beacon was never turned on because of international treaty constraints.

AMSAT has additional information on AO−7 on its Web site, **http://www.amsat.org.**

ARRL EPA Section News

Chester County Ares/Races Provides Communications for Bike Tour

The Cancer Center at Chester Co Hospital ran their annual Challenge for Cancer Scenic Bike Tour on Sunday May 19th. Several looped courses were provided for riders of various levels and skills; 5−mile / 10−mile / 25−mile / and 50−mile tours. Chester County ARES/RACES provided communications support for the 25− and 50−mile events.

Three weeks before the event, we are asked to provide operators to help cover the course, and to provide communications support. Other volunteers had previously been employed using cellphones and FRS radios. While these tools had proven valuable for the short courses, they were unsuitable for the longer tours. The FRS radios lacked the range. And the cellphones had only one number to call in order to pass information; as course length increased, the number of cell users increased. This created a log−jam at the event control cellphone.

Curt Lambert, W3HQ, had met some of the organizers through his work at the hospital, and he got the ball rolling. Curt explained that ham radio could cover the entire course, and that the local chapter had considerable experience providing comm support to March of Dimes walks, and other similar events.

We geared up quickly, and marshalled the volunteers. Bill, N3LRA, and Lor, W3QA, did an RF survey of the course (lots of deep valleys and ravines along the Brandywine Creek part of the course; stretched over about 20 miles end−to−end). We solicited dual−band "loaner" rigs and mag mounts for those with HT−only shacks; and we decided to give NVIS a try.

In three weeks time, we lined up 15 operators, and had a presentation by the Bike Event coordinator at our May Tech Rally at the EOC. Several pieces of "loaner" gear were secured. NVIS gear was deployed. The weather was beautiful, and the CCAR crew performed splendidly.

Four operators were mobile in the bike event (support and sweep) vehicles, one operator was aboard the ambulance, and the rest of us were spread around the course at checkpoints and rest stops. Four stations (KE3HG Rich, W3QA Lor, W3WA Jim, and N3LRA Bill) operated NVIS on 75 and 40 meters. Our experience with local walk, bike and canoe events meant that we could provide knowledgeable and experienced personnel.

The event ran smoothly. NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) operations were quite interesting. Early morning attempts to use 40m fone proved to be ineffective. We then moved to 75 meters. As the sun climbed in the sky, and the MUF increased, we returned to 40 with much better results. Firm analyses were hard to draw from our experience owing to the many different antenna types in use, and to the multi−band, multi−mode operations to support the bike event. Communications were confirmed as skywave by QSB on most of the signals; varying between S−5 and S−9, and dynamically rippling with the convolutions in the ionosphere. Only two stations were predominantly groundwave; their locations being approximately three miles distant. It was generally agreed that further experimentation was warranted in regard to NVIS for local area HF coverage.

The event honchos were extremely complimentary as they wrapped up from the event. They specifically mentioned their ability to follow events in "real−time"; to pass traffic between the event HQ and the coordinator as he circled the course, to hear the calls for bike and rider pick−ups; and the tracking of the last stragglers to inform the sweep vehicles.
(Story Courtesy of William Taylor N3LRA)

PL Tone to be required for all coordinated repeaters in ARCC

Area Repeater Coordination Council of EPA/SNJ Inc. The following information comes from the ARCC News for June 2002.

"In recent years many coordination councils have adopted "mandatory PL" policies, requiring all repeaters to utilize PL on their receivers. ARCC has been considering enacting a similar policy. This was discussed again at the most recent ARCC Executive Board Meeting. A motion was made and seconded,

and passed unanimously that requires that:

1. All new coordinated operations will require a means of access control on the receiver which shall be used at all times.

2. All modifications to existing coordinations that currently do not have a means of access control will require such access control be added as a condition to the approval of the modification.

3. All repeater and auxiliary links that are currently coordinated for carrier squelch access must coordinate a means of access control within the next three years in order to maintain coordination."

The ARCC goes on to remind everyone that "CTCSS" does not indicate a "closed repeater" system and that since it has been about twenty years since CTCSS capable radios were introduced into the Amateur Radio market the percentage of radios being used today that are not CTCSS capable is very small. The use of DTMF may greatly lessen any problems in this area. Some helpful suggestions that ARCC include are that CTCCS on multiple Amateur repeaters within a given municipal area may want to use the same CTCSS. Also, the ARCC requires that a repeater not utilize the same CTCSS tone as any other co−channel or adjacent−channel repeaters on record in order to minimize interference from distant repeaters' users. **Anyone needing additional information should contact the ARCC at P.O. Box 3006 Maple Glen, PA. 19002**

ARRL VEC

198th Monthly Phil−Mont

VE Exam Session Statistics

for June 6, 2002

Nine candidates took thirteen elements, and we had three upgrades and three new hams. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**, and the other participating VEs were :

Harold Goodman W3UWH
Bob Freer W3YLT
Peter Butler WB2B
Roger Shannon KB3CYB
James R. Perry, W3JRP
Jim McCloskey NS3K
Jeff Kerber N3VE.

Upcoming Exam Sessions:
July 11, 2002
August 1, 2002
September 5, 2002
(See page 2 for details)

Just a short note to let you what has happened this month. 9 candidates took a total of thirteen elements. F.C.C. has processed them as of Friday, June 14, 2002. By the looks of things it has taken a total of eight days from the exam night. This sure beat the four month waiting period back in the nineties !!

May PMRC Board Of Directors Meeting

The May meeting was held at the home of Mike K2BN and Alice WA2BTB. Attending were Ed KB3IV, Jim W3BBB, Dick W3RM, Steve WU3I, Fred WA3KIO, Al W3STW, Mike K2BN, Mike N3MT, and Bill W3AOK.

Mike K2BN gave the financial report. We are where we should be and the club is doing fine. Mike and Alice will be leaving Pennsylvania around October 1st so a new treasurer will be needed.

Jim W3BBB made a motion to accept Dick W3RM to serve as interim Treasurer with Mike N3MT assistant treasurer as of June 30th. Ed seconded it.

Jim W3BBB stated the repeater is working. We are still waiting for the UHF final to come in to get UHF back and running.

Steve WU3I reported that the deadline has passed for Field Day pins and shirts. Everyone who is signed up for shirts is also signed up for Field Day. Only the meals are left to be determined.

Al W3STW brought up having a permanent meeting place for the board meeting. With one more meeting being held at the home of W3BBB in June, a location is being looked into for September and beyond.

W3RM reported that June 1st is the last day to get an application in for the scholarship fund with May 1st being the last day to get an application.

Steve WU3I reported on the status with the Franklin Institute. By the end of this year, we will be out of the FISM for W3AA, V.E. testing, and general meetings in Choices Forum.

The FISM is going ahead with plans to convert the 4th floor to offices. We may be offered a spot in 2005 but the length of coax needed will be prohibitive. We will be looking for new locations for general meetings and for V.E. testing. It will brought to the general membership to help look for a new meeting place. Steve WU3I will contact the volunteers at W3AA. There will be more about this in the June Blurb.

An application for membership from Harry Eberlin WA3AZS was voted on. It was moved that he would be accepted. Dick W3RM seconded it. Welcome Harry.

At 9:53pm Al W3STW made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike K2BN seconded it. Thanks to Mike and Alice for hosting the meeting.

73 de WA3KIO

May PMRC General Meeting

Welcome: Charlye K3CJ reported 24 people in attendance. Ed KB3IV called the meeting to order at 8:00pm.

Nets: Ed is looking for net controls. If interested, see Ed who can always find room. Please support our nets and check in.

Emergency Coordinator: Gene N3XKE − All is well.

Scholarship Program: Dick W3RM reported things are well underway. May 1st was the deadline for getting applications. The deadline for getting applications filed is June 1st. Winners should be known by June 30th.

DX: Dick W3RM reported that Mike N3MT and himself would be operating as P40RM and P40MT from Aruba. They would appreciate making contacts from members.

Field day: Steve WU3I gave out tee shirts and pins to those who ordered them. He is looking for those who will be attending and those who will be present for meals.

Blurb: Maggie K3XS has redone the cover page and Steve has added updates on the MS150. As he gets new information, it will be added.

Sunshine: Steve WU3I reported the passing of former Philmont member Jim Bock K3PHC.

W3AA: Steve WU3I reported the impending closing of W3AA. There will be more about this, V.E. testing and general meetings in the Blurb.

At this time, Al W3STW introduced our guest speaker, the Vice President of the ARRL, Kay Craigie WT3P.

73 de WA3KIO

Public Service Events

ACS Bike−a−thon
Sunday, July 14th
2002.

Steve Bromhead KB2RTZ writes:

Hi all! I'm looking for help in July with the American Cancer Society Bike−a−Thon. It would be 3 or 4 hours of your time. If you can help out please email me at ***kb2rtz@comcast.net***

This is a real important event we need all the help we can get, so please help out.

The American Cancer Society's 30th Annual Bike−a−thon is the largest single day biking event in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. This event is open to the serious or recreational cyclist at three different distances: 100−km course, 78−km course and a 36−km course through the back roads of New Jersey.

Starting Points

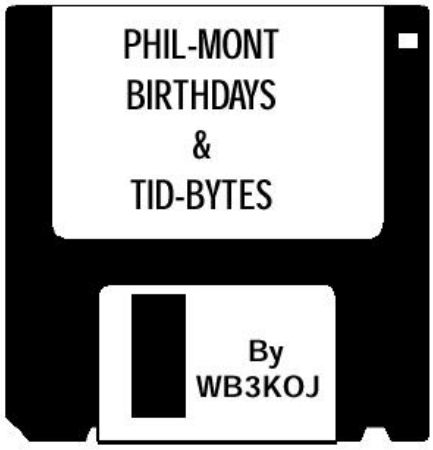
100 km (61.1 miles) Start: 7:00 a.m., Ben Franklin Bridge, Philadelphia −− (6:45 lineup)
78 km (47.4 miles) Start: 7:45a.m., Voorhees, NJ
36 km (22.8 miles) Start: 8:45 a.m., Hammonton, NJ

All rides end at Lenape Park in Mays Landing NJ

MS150 City−to−Shore Bike Tour September 28−29

We still need many more volunteers for this year's MS150. Forms are available at the Phil−Mont website. Please get them filled out and sent in as soon as possible

Wanted:
486 computer in working condition.
Contact W3PXY



MEMBERSHIP STATS
At press time P.M.R.C. has:
119 FULL PAID MEMBERS
12 FAMILY MEMBERS
3 YOUTH
2 HONORARY MEMBERS
0 PENDING MEMBER

Don't forget! 2002 Licence Expirations:

October.−**W3CH, KB3AFH**
December−**KA3EIP**

July Birthdays

02 Ted Katz − N3OWM
Alice Popovic (XYL W3AOK)
03 Nicole Bohlander (XYL WA3KLR)
04 Marion Blum (XYL W3PTB)
Leah Hughes − KB3AIN (XYL W3LEN)
07 Gary Guy − N3WPE
08 Brian Hoch − N3VJE
09 Pete Broselow − N3WIQ
Donna Rush − N2YKW (XYL WT3X)
Natalie Gordon − WB3KOH (XYL WB3KOJ)
10 James Perry − W3JRP
12 Grace Smith (XYL K3GBA)
Linda Cantarella (XYL K3DTC)
09 Pete Broselow − N3WIQ
Donna Rush − N2YKW (XYL WT3X)
James Perry − W3JRP
12 Grace Smith (XYL K3GBA)
Linda Cantarella (XYL K3DTC)
14 Larry Clifford − W3UY

Well, sometimes stuff just happens...

This issue was **planned** to focus on Contesting and DX. But when press time came, we had no articles on the theme and a lot of other stuff relating to Field Day and other developments.

Looking ahead...

We're planning on topics to focus on in future issues:

August	Satellites and space
September	MS150 and public service

We're always open to input and suggestions for topics of interest to our readers, and welcome submissions. Drop your editors a line at k3xs@arrl.net

	July 2002
Date	Event
Mon 01	
Tue 02	
Wed 03	NO PMRC Board meeting −− summer hiatus
Thu 04	Independence Day
Fri 05	
Sat 06	
Sun 07	NCS: 2m K3XS 10m:W3AA 75M:W2AJV
Mon 08	
Tue 09	
Wed 10	*NO* PMRC General Meeting (summer hiatus)
Thu 11	Licence Exams −− 6 pm −− see Page 2
Fri 12	
Sat 13	
Sun 14	NCS: 2m KB3FHF 10m:W3AA 75M:WA3KIO
Mon 15	
Tue 16	
Wed 17	
Thu 18	
Fri 19	
Sat 20	
Sun 21	NCS: 2m KB3IV 10m:W3AA 75M:KB3IV
Mon 22	
Tue 23	
Wed 24	
Thu 25	
Fri 26	
Sat 27	
Sun 28	NCS: 2m WB3KOJ 10m:W3AA 75M:NG3P
Mon 29	
Tue 30	
Wed 31	

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Bluff